

Courier-Journal.

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 25, 1884.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

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"BUSINESS."

SATURDAY, Feb. 23.—The weather has been eccentric and abnormal. To judge from the first quarter of the year, the meteorological scheme of 1884 is not reassuring. It has already surpassed all previous extremes limits apparently fixed by nature, in three particulars: the greatest degree of cold, the greatest flood, and the most destructive tornado ever known in these latitudes. The latter, on Tuesday last, swept across the Southeast, and destroyed 700 or 800 lives besides a large amount of property. Whether this appalling calamity is the result of the disastrous variations of the elements from past experiences, is, of course, a matter for guessing, but the apparent introduction of some new combination of natural forces into weather phenomena is at least perplexing to ordinary calculations.

The subsidence of the Ohio river flood has been followed by great activity in repair and in the restoration of commercial activity. Business houses and transportation lines have been very busy in dispatching delayed traffic, and in a few days the industries and trade of the valley will have settled back into their accustomed course. The trade of the entire country has been seriously hindered and embarrassed by untoward weather conditions; and it is well within the bounds of discretion to say there is at least ample room for improvement in all quarters.

It is a gratifying feature of the times that the decrease in mercantile failures continues steadily from week to week.

The visible supply of wheat combined with the stock stored for Europe has decreased by 903,000 bushels, and corn in those positions has increased by 632,000 bushels.

The wheat situation has suffered a severe collapse, under the failure of anticipated first and second crops, and the indifference of foreign markets. In Chicago prices have declined 3½¢ (3½¢), in St. Louis 1½¢ (1½¢) and in New York 1½¢ (1½¢). Corn has declined 1½¢ (1½¢) in Chicago, oats ½¢ (½¢) and rye ½¢ (½¢), while barley is higher. Provisions have been irregular, declining seriously in the first half of the week, but rallying steadily afterward, and nearly regaining the differences lost. At the close there is a decline in Chicago, as compared with last Saturday, of 10¢ (10¢) in meat, 12¢ (12¢) in lard, and 4¢ (4¢) in spot. There was a noticeable increase in the receipts of hogs preceding the decline, but the receipts of the week were even smaller than those of last week. The hog market declined, and rallied under these influences, closing 25¢ (25¢) lower than a week ago for light and rough stock, and the settled grades are fully supported. Cattle have been firm. Late arrivals report heavy losses on Western and Southwestern ranges. Cotton has been firm, with a rise of 1-16 in New Orleans, while other American markets are stationary. Liverpool is 1-16 higher. Port receipts were very light this week, but this is due in part to weather conditions. The pig-iron markets have been decidedly dull, but no decline is reported except in Eastern markets. Merchant irons are steady to firm, partly in consequence of the enforced stoppage of production in the Ohio valley. The wool markets were strong, and it appears probable that interior stocks will be better cleared up this season, in advance of the spring clip, than in several years past. Dry goods have been quiet in all quarters. The advance in discolored sheeting is well sustained, but print cloths are somewhat weaker. Coffee have advanced 10¢ (10¢) in New York Exchange. Refined sugars have been sustained. Petroleum has been weak and nervous. Pipe-line certificates are 1½¢ (1½¢) lower than a week ago. The tobacco market has been strong and in sellers' favor. It is a fact worthy of notice that Louisville is the only market on the river which was not flooded and brought to a compulsory pause during the late overflow. Business has been proceeding regularly every day at all the warehouses, while it has been entirely suspended at Cincinnati for about three weeks. In those three weeks the receipts here were 3,550 bbls. The whisky trade has become much more hopeful of legislation, and a considerable speculative inquiry has developed.

In New York money has been easy at rates 1½¢ (1½¢) per cent. lower than a year ago. The banks report a slight lowering of reserves. The surplus above the lawful minimum is \$10,761,800, against \$1,209,000 a year ago; so there is, in any event, an ample relative leeway. Western exchanges in New York have been strengthening. Foreign exchange has been strong, and sterling bills are ½¢ (½¢) per £ higher. There is now a liberal apparent profit on exportations of gold, and a large outflow is probable. There is an unusual idle surplus on this side, trade balances are unsatisfactory on account of the small demand for Western produce, and in the meanwhile there is a growing feeling of uneasiness in Europe in respect to the low stage of the visible stock of gold. Government bonds have not varied materially. The stock market has been quiet, except in manipulated properties, and prices average lower than a week ago.

In London, English consols have advanced, and American railroads have declined. In Liverpool, hog products have declined 1/2¢, breadstuffs have been dull, and cotton has advanced.

A series of heavy failures have occurred this week in France.

THE WHISKY QUESTION EAST AND WEST.

It is worthy of the consideration of Congressmen that there is a peculiarity in the relative situation of whisky dealers in the East and the West, which radically affects Eastern and Western opinion on the pending bond-extension bill. Eastern holders of whisky may take advantage of the privilege of exporting and reimporting whisky, and Western holders may not. The freight to Bermuda and back is less than the inland freight in one direction between New York and the Western centers, and is much less than half as great as on both inland hauls combined. The Eastern holder, by a trivial outlay in freight, may secure an extension on maturing taxes equal to that proposed by the bill, by carrying his whisky two years in Bermuda, and by so doing he would be a clear gainer in two important particulars: First, he would save the 4½ per cent. interest on the deferred tax for the two years, and second, he would save the tax on the leakage through the privilege of regauging his whisky when reimported.

The point which this state of facts should present to any intelligent man is that this measure, therefore, involves the question whether it is good political economy or common justice to sacrifice the interests and fortunes of producers for the benefit of speculators and dealers, or whether Eastern dealers should be enriched at the expense of Western producers.

This peculiarity in the whisky trade

constitutes, in the absence of further legislation, a high protective tax in favor of the East, which is to be paid out of the pockets of Western business men; and the failure of legislation in this behalf is desired by the Eastern dealers for two reasons: First, because they have a more valuable privilege already than the proposed bill will give them; and, second, because they hope, if the bill fails, that the necessities of Western holders will compel them to sell at ruinous sacrifices below cost. This is the case in a nutshell.

THE SALE OF TOBACCO BY PRODUCERS.

We had hoped that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on having explained to him the error of his ruling on the sale of tobacco to consumers by producers thereof, would do himself the credit to modify that ruling so as to conform to the law. In this, it seems, we are to be mistaken. He wrote last week a labored defense of his position, endeavoring to parry the criticisms of the COURIER-JOURNAL. Our attention has been called to this letter, which, though written expressly as a reply to the COURIER-JOURNAL and intended for public perusal, was cached in the columns of an obscure sheet, whose limited circulation would have rendered any degree of publicity impossible.

The Commissioner undertakes to justify himself by sundry citations of law. The chief reliance of his argument appears to be section 3,244 of the Revised Statutes. This section reads as follows: "Retail dealers in leaf tobacco shall each pay \$500, and if their annual sales exceed \$1,000, shall each pay in addition thereto 50 cents for every dollar in excess of \$1,000 of their sales. Every person shall be regarded as a retail dealer in leaf tobacco whose business it is to sell leaf tobacco in quantities less than an original hoghead, case or bale, or who sells directly to consumers, or to persons other than dealers in tobacco, who have paid a special tax as such; or to manufacturers of tobacco, snuff or cigars, who have paid a special tax; or to persons who purchase in original packages for export."

We ask the reader in justice to the argument to reread this section attentively. If he does so he will discover that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has failed to comprehend some of the plainest distinctions in the law. Section 3,244, Mr. EVANS, is a penal statute. It is a penalty of mental ledgerism could you have deceived yourself into the conclusion that retail dealers in leaf tobacco are really expected to pay a license tax of \$500 and in addition a tax of 50 per cent. on their sales in excess of \$1,000? Can you not see that this tax is equal to 100 to 1,000 per cent. of the total proceeds of all sales from \$1 up to \$1,000, and on sales above \$1,000 that the tax is 50 per cent. of the proceeds of sales? Can you not see that no business could subsist under this rate of taxation, and that the tax of section 3,244 was intended to be prohibitive? Any of the old clerks in your office might have informed you that the object of this section was to destroy the whole business of dealing in leaf tobacco by retail for the benefit of the wholesale and manufacturing branches, and that its object has been in fact accomplished.

The Commissioner proceeds without argument to cite section 2 of the act of March, 1853, which reads as follows:

"Retail dealers in leaf tobacco shall pay \$250 for each dollar on the amount of their monthly sales in excess of the rate of \$500 per annum. Provided, That farmers and producers of tobacco may sell at the place of production tobacco of their own growth and raising at retail directly to consumers, to an amount not exceeding \$100 annually."

The Commissioner remarks upon these two sections that it requires no eminent capacity for legal construction to determine that the same article of commerce is referred to in them both, namely, "leaf tobacco." We grow not. On that we are not agreed. The proviso of 1853 omits the word "leaf," which is contained in all other tobacco statutes. He then proceeds to twist the COURIER-JOURNAL because in its criticisms it quoted only the proviso, instead of the whole section. If this was a fault, it is now amended. Mr. Commissioner, for there is section 2 in its entirety.

But, without knowing it, the Commissioner by collecting these two sections has furnished a condensed demonstration of the error in his theory of the present law. The case is this: First, retail dealers in leaf tobacco are subject to a prohibitive tax; second, retail dealers are persons who sell leaf tobacco in quantities less than a hoghead, case or bale, or who sell directly to consumers, or to persons other than dealers or exporters; third, all sales of this sort are therefore prohibited, and we may add, under heavy penalties; fourth, but the act of 1853 made a radical departure from the theory of all past legislation, and empowers the producers of tobacco, and none others, to engage in this proscribed business without paying any tax whatever, either on license or sales; fifth, that act, therefore, in giving a certain class of citizens a new right previously denied them, the right to sell tobacco by retail to consumers, imposed no limitations upon the form in which it might be sold, and left them free to sell it in any form convenient for that new kind of trade. It is in fact gave them the privileges of dealers and manufacturers, to the extent of selling \$100 worth of their own production per annum to consumers.

The Commissioner next cites certain provisions of the law which define the legal meaning of "manufacturers." According to these statutes the producers of tobacco would be debarred from selling "for use or consumption" even the "scraps, waste, clippings, stems, or deposits of tobacco resulting from any process of handling tobacco" in barns. The theory of the old law was that the tobacco trade in all its parts should be forced into the hands of middlemen, and farmers were allowed to pack and sell even this offal only to dealers and manufacturers, and only in such form as suited that plan of trading, that is in hogheads or cases. The Commissioner, absurdly enough, argues that this rule still obtains in respect to this barn offal, and that while the farmer may sell a thousand or so pounds of his finest leaf, without tax or license, he must pay a round penalty if he sells by retail an ounce of his scraps, clippings, waste stems, etc.

To sum up the whole case: The act of March, 1853, was distinctly intended to supersede the whole body of the previous internal revenue legislation, which, for the purpose of preventing frauds on the revenue, forced the entire tobacco crop into the hands of Government licensees; and to give producers to a certain limit the rights of free trade or license previously given only to manufacturers and dealers. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue decides, however, that this right shall be exercised only under certain limitations of his own invention which are clearly unlawful. He

concludes by saying that the matter attracts his attention because our criticisms may "possibly mislead persons into doing what will, according to the statute, subject them to penalties." This is grossly disingenuous. Commissioner EVANS' ruling was published in our first editorial on this subject, in a more complete form than in the present letter, and planters were thereby as fully advised of his decision. We also stated that any planter who would venture to sell any part of his crop except under the Commissioner's arbitrary limitations would be liable to prosecution by his agents. We added, however, as we repeat now, that his ruling is unlawful and that if a test were made he would probably be thrown out of court.

WATER RUNNING UP HILL.

New proof is now at hand to show that the so-called tariff-reduction act of last March was one of the most unique pieces of political jugglery ever perpetrated. The Republicans, forced by the demand of the people for tariff reform, as voiced through the great Democratic majorities, sought to meet that demand by the passage of an act which would nominally make a reduction, but which in reality, in many of the more important imports, actually increased the duties, while pretending to lower them.

As recommended by the Tariff Commission of their own appointment, they promised that the act of March would make a reduction of from 20 to 25 per cent. on the old tariff. But the act was so shaped that it is now doubtful if it will make any appreciable reduction whatever. This is not mere baseless generalizing. The Chicago Times publishes a report of Mr. NIMMO, the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, in which he gives an analysis of the customs returns for the first six months under this act, as compared with the corresponding period of 1882 under the old tariff.

Some of the items of this analysis are not only interesting, but must be surprising to those who thought the Republicans intended to make a bona fide reduction. In cotton goods, for instance, Mr. NIMMO's report shows that the ad valorem equivalent of the duties laid on them in the first six months of the new tariff was 40.07 per cent., whereas in the corresponding six months of the previous year the rate under the old tariff was 38.02, being an increase rather than a reduction.

On woolen goods the ad valorem equivalent for the first six months under the new tariff was 68.90 per cent.; during the corresponding period of 1882 under the old tariff the rate was 66.71 per cent.; a similar increase in the case of cotton goods, showing that the manufacturer of woolens enjoys a higher protection than formerly, while the duties on wool have really been reduced about 20 per cent.

On pottery the average under the new tariff was 47.85 per cent.; under the old tariff it was 43.32 per cent.

On glass the rate under the new tariff was 55.47; under the old tariff it was 54.47 per cent.

On all these articles it will be seen, therefore, that the rates were higher under the new alleged reduced tariff than they were under the old, and there was a corresponding decrease in their importation.

Of all the six principal classes of imports there has been an actual small reduction on only two, iron and steel, and sugar, the duties on the others being increased.

Summarizing the imports for the two corresponding periods under the two tariffs, we have this table:

	Size month ended Dec. 31, 1882.	Size month ended Dec. 31, 1883.
Value of imports.	\$129,896,319	\$112,953,379
Duties collected.	\$9,943,955	\$8,004,025
Ad. rate of duty.	49.62	48.79

Instead of the promised reduction of twenty or twenty-five per cent., it is seen we are not given one of two per cent.

And yet this is the great reform of the tariff on which the Republicans pounce themselves, and which they hold forth as a conclusive argument that the tariff should now be "let alone," in which they are joined by those Democrats into whose soul the pig iron has entered, or who are as afraid of practical politics as the devil is of holy war—as Cincinnati is of river water.

And so when Mr. MORRISON proposes to do by his Tariff Bill what these remarkable "revisers" said should be done, promised to do and completely failed to do, they cry out: "Hands off! No more tariff tinkering! Give the new law a chance! The business interests must not be disturbed!"

The country is looking at you, Mr. MORRISON.

IRON AND THE TARIFF.

The Birmingham Age asserts that if the Morrison Bill passes, Alabama furnaces will blow out in a month. If this is true, some land-owners in the neighborhood of Birmingham have been doing some pretty lively thing. We do not believe it. In opposition to this assertion of the Birmingham Age we put the statements of Col. COLYAR and Col. STOSS concerning the price of iron and its cost of production in the South. Examining these statements, it is plain the Age is crying wolf when there is no wolf.

Col. COLYAR stated some time ago that the Cowan furnace, we believe it was, which cost \$134,000, had in one year made \$84,000 profit. At that time the tariff on iron was \$7. It will be reduced by the Morrison Bill to \$5.38 per ton, or a reduction of only \$1.62. According to the Age, the profit per ton could not exceed \$1.62, and a reduction in the tariff to that extent would close the Southern furnaces. Now, in order to make \$84,000 in one year, the Cowan furnace, with a profit of \$1.62 per ton, would have to make 52,000 tons, or 1,000 tons per week. The Age and Col. COLYAR know that no furnace in the South has anything like such a capacity. Just what the capacity of Col. COLYAR's furnace is no one knows, but most probably it ranges somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000 tons per annum. So we must conclude that the profit per ton is larger than the Age asserts, and that a reduction in price of \$1.62 would have no such disastrous effect as the Age imagines.

Now let us try a little different process of reasoning. The tariff on iron is now \$6.78; the Morrison Bill makes it \$5.38, or a reduction from the law as it now stands of \$1.40, and a reduction as compared with last year of \$1.62. Against such a reduction the pig-iron makers protest in a very animated chorus, and predict blue ruin. As a matter of fact, competition and stagnation in trade have, combined, wrought a greater reduction in the price of pig many times the reduction the Morrison Bill will cause. Certain local conditions have at times suspended

the tariff as it were; we mean prices have been reduced to the point where foreign goods could not come in even free of duty. Of course this condition of affairs is only temporary; there is soon a combination among American dealers and the prices are advanced, as they were in 1879; the whole tribute the law allows is exacted. It is a fact that in the past eighteen months the reduction in the price of pig-iron has equaled the tariff. The laws of trade, as far as they have been allowed to act, have done what a repeal of the tariff two years ago would have done, and none of the evils predicted have come to pass. Of course some expensive furnaces—furnaces badly located and extravagantly managed—have been compelled to blow out, but this has led to the erection of more furnaces in the South.

We do not consider this a serious calamity; neither does Col. COLYAR nor the Birmingham Age.

During the past two years, with the price of iron steadily declining, the development of the iron industries in the South has been phenomenal. It was exactly what the COURIER-JOURNAL predicted. The star of the iron empire takes its way to the South. This would not be true if the statement of the Age were correct. It is absolutely incorrect. Under the Morrison Bill, according to the Age, good Scotch pig could be put in the seaboard markets at \$16.73; then good Scotch pig must now only cost at the seaboard \$10.73, plus \$1.34, or \$12.07. Whenever the price of pig-iron advances above \$18.07 we would look for an influx of foreign pig, and yet to-day No. 2 Southern coke pig-iron is quoted at \$20, or \$2.00 above the figures given by the Age.

The Age says that iron at Birmingham costs \$12 and that it costs \$5 or \$6 to put it in the seaboard markets. The Age is, as usual, incorrect; it evidently gets its information from the Nashville American, and draws its inferences from its inner consciousness.

It is the official statement, coming from the President of the Sloss furnace and confirmed by the Secretary, that the cost of iron at that furnace is \$11.91, and that these figures include interest on capital invested, and allow also for the value of the ore in the ground. The Secretary says:

"I believe I am in a position to know how cheaply a ton of iron can be produced in the Southern iron district, as I have been Secretary for this company since it commenced operations, and I have been in the company on the same continent can make it cheaper than we do, as we have all the advantages of ore, coal and limestone, as well as all the most recent and approved methods of iron smelting. I have figured it all out very carefully, and the figures my father testified to before the Senate Committee are correct. Eleven dollars and ninety-one cents is the figure, and this includes every known expense. Labor, clerk-hire, interest on investment, interest on working capital at eight per cent., value of ore in the mountains before being mined, wear and tear of machinery, taxes, incidentals, etc. Everything! All that the iron is sold for above this figure can go into a fund to pay dividends to stockholders. I have completed all this carefully on an average of three years' production, wear and tear, expenses, etc., of a furnace, and you will find that my figures are not far from correct."

Now this product of the Birmingham furnace does not all go to the seaboard. It is sold west of Pittsburgh, principally in Louisville and Cincinnati. The price paid is in the neighborhood of \$16 per ton on board the cars at Birmingham, and it will cost more to bring the Scotch pig iron from the seaboard to the central markets than to bring the Southern pig iron from Birmingham. A little reflection ought to show even the editor of the Birmingham Age the folly of asserting that a reduction of \$1.34 per ton in the price of pig iron would compel the Alabama furnaces to blow out. No one outside of the office of the Age believes it.

THE SOUTH AND THE NORTHWEST.

While the sentiment is universal in Louisville in favor of the exhibition of 1884, that baneful procrastination that has so often retarded our enterprise is still upon us, keeping back the completion of the arrangements. There were subscriptions last week that might have been made six weeks hence; there will be subscriptions two weeks hence that might be made now. The \$120,000 already assured is a guarantee that the \$200,000 required to make a start will be secured; but with the knowledge that this amount is necessary, it would be incomprehensible why the full amount is not already subscribed were it not for the procrastinating spirit which seems to habitually mark our people.

This habit is the great drawback of Kentucky. Though we are coming to the front as a competitor for capital seeking investment, it is only after the pushing and ambitious Northwest has been tried and in some measure found wanting that energy and capital turn to us. We might have entered the race long ago. The brilliant ventures that have become historical in their collapse through the uncertainties of the Northwest might have been turned to our region, and been sustained by certainties that would have given us permanent development and the projects assured wealth. What we are securing now from such efforts is through the new-born energy of Kentucky seizing upon the returning tide of enterprise that has met with partial disappointment elsewhere.

But it is not an easy struggle yet. There are physical advantages in the South over the Northwest; but there is a spirit in the people of that Northern section that must be at least equaled in the South.

Look at this example: Ever had before, with the prestige of a great success still giving their name celebrity throughout the world, with producers and manufacturers from different quarters anxiously inquiring as to the arrangements for the Exhibition of 1884, the business people of Louisville are daily procrastinating in a matter which they daily promise shall be fulfilled.

On the other hand, consider this sample from the great Northwest, that is fully awakened to the struggle in the friendly field of competition with the South. Michigan invites Kentucky to a contest on Kentucky's own ground, and giving Kentucky all the benefit of the active, advertising habit of Michigan. While we are plodding along in the perhaps doubtful effort toward another exhibition, the Michigan Commissioners, assuming that no people would throw away such a chance, are sending out to the country their letter-heads with a cut of our great building and a formal announcement of our undertaking.

While we are still in doubt whether we can open the doors of our Exposition, these Michigan Commissioners write to those who are struggling to push forward this Louisville enterprise these prompt and significant words: "We are taking steps to have our agricultural, mining and salt industries fully represented. The State Grange has already passed resolutions to co-operate in this movement, and we propose to have one of the finest exhibits given by any individual State."

And with this announcement comes the assurance that Michigan will send a large number of visitors to the Exposition of 1884.

If Louisville proposes to keep her place she must get up and do a thing when she thinks it ought to be done, or if she thinks a certain thing should not be done, let her say so and do something else. Vacillation and procrastination are as unworthy of a people as a man. It will not do for either a man or a community to pretend to great qualities and yet do nothing while other people are really doing something.

Here are people from abroad seeking space in our Exposition, telling us that those in their neighborhood are looking forward to a visit to our show; exhibitors in our last year's exhibition exhibiting advertisements in our own Board of Trade report so as to let us see that our outside friends and competitors value opportunity; the press of the country all speaking favorably of our enterprise, and in all this crowding of circumstances toward one purpose our own people are the only laggards.

CLEARING AWAY the forests brings droughts, as well as floods. The Manhattan gives this instance of how a desert was made of a once fertile country:

"Thirty years ago, says the French journal *Revue des Deux Mondes*, the Khanate of Bucharia was one of the most fertile regions of Central Asia, well wooded and watered as a terrestrial paradise. But within the last twenty years a mania of clearing has seized upon the inhabitants, and all the great forests have been cut away, and the little that remained was being cut during a civil war. The consequences were not long in following, and have transformed this country into a kind of arid desert. The watercourses are dried up, and the irrigating canals empty. The moving sands of the desert, being no longer restrained by barriers of forests, are every day gaining upon the land, and will finish by transforming it into a desert as desolate as the solitudes that separate it from Khiva."

It is on the card to check the victorious advances of EL MAHDI, the next engagement of his forces in Egypt should give some evidence of this. With the capitulation of Tokar, the rebels find themselves confronting the British fleet and forces. Sukkim, the next probable point of attack, is held by the English, and OSMAN DIGNA, who has taken up his position near that place, will not have the shadow of BAKER PASHA to fight. The report of the next battle may considerably vary from that of the unbroken rebel victories so far received, and may turn the tide of the False Prophet from his advance in Upper Egypt.

BRADLAUGH's re-election by the voters of Northampton to the House of Commons makes the fourth time he has been chosen by these electors. For the fourth time he has been refused his seat on account of his religious views, and for four years Northampton has been without a representative. The House seems determined to persist in its refusal, and the people of Northampton appear equally resolved to seat the man of their choice, as they elected him the last time by the largest majority he has yet received. It is almost impossible to conceive that such a contest as this could arise in any civilized government of the Nineteenth century.

It is reported that there is trouble among the Republicans at Chicago about the coming National Convention in that city. They expected to hold it in the Exposition building, but they have discovered that it has been let to the Musical Festival Association up to June 6, three days after the date for the convention. The Republicans might change their programme and come to Louisville. We have an Exposition building which is at their service, and mixing with the Democrats down this way wouldn't hurt them.

In the last issue of the COURIER-JOURNAL we published a communication from J. M. W. on the Lasker affair. J. M. W. takes issue with us in several particulars, in most of his arguments attributing to us absurdities, derived from his own imagination, instead of our articles. Those being of his own creation he easily demolishes. We do not consider J. M. W.'s arguments as deserving extended discussion, and they merely illustrate how weak a defense BISMARCK's course must needs be made even by a clever writer.

The New York World says that "Indiana, with only one-third of the territory which Kentucky has on the Ohio river, has appropriated \$150,000 for the relief of the flood sufferers, or six times as much as was voted by the Kentucky Legislature for the same purpose." The World is mistaken. The Kentucky Legislature appropriated \$100,000, to say nothing of the private contributions from her citizens.

THAT was an excellent bill lately passed by the House reducing the postage on transient newspapers and magazines to one cent for four ounces. It is to be hoped that it will be promptly passed by the Senate. It will greatly increase this class of mail matter, and will also insure its delivery, much of which, owing to the present regulations, now remains in the office in which it is deposited.

"ORANGES should never be eaten in company. They should be quartered with the rind on and gobbled up with sufficient speed and voracity to get the true flavor which never clings to the flesh."—*Atlanta Constitution*.

Your small-boy is the truly philosophic orange-eater. No one gobbles them up with more speed and voracity as he slips one from the fruit stand and shoots off around the corner.

SCIENTISTS are speculating as to how the comet of 1812, which recently returned to these skies, lost its tail, as so far as is discernible, it is now without a caudal attachment. Perhaps it strayed around within nibbling distance of Capricorn, the heavenly Goat.

WHAT can Congress do to resent the insolence of BISMARCK? That is the great question now. One course open to it is to change the name of that Dakota town, Bismarck. We don't want any Bismarcks in America. The place might be called Lasker.

"EGYPT will be wanting to trade its army for the American navy after awhile."—*Philadelphia Times*.

But we can't trade. The "Alert" was given to us by England, and it would be inexcusable for us to swap it off.

It is rather strange that Congress has not yet apologized to BISMARCK.

ABOUT WOMEN.

QUEEN VICTORIA, it is said, has to pay postage on her mail matter just the same as any of her subjects.

TERESA TUA, a young violinist, who has become famous by her performance in Germany, is the daughter of a cobbler who lived in Florence.

MISS ANITA NEWCOMB, who is now studying abroad, has remarkable mathematical powers, and computes an eclipse with the facility of her father, Prof. Newcomb, of the naval observatory.

MISS WITHERS, the daughter of ex-Senator Withers, of Virginia, can handle a shotgun with an accuracy of aim exceeding that of many pretentious sportsmen, and makes nothing of bringing down birds on the wing.

MISS GRACE GREENWAY, whose charming illustrations have made her name a household word, is about to turn her artistic talent to home-building. She has purchased a piece of land at historic Hampstead, England, on which she intends to build herself a characteristic dwelling.

At last Miss Sarah Burr's will has been admitted to probate in the New York Surrogate's office, after about two years of litigation. The millionaire spinster was bound to no living human being by the ties of close consanguinity. She had no father, mother, husband, child, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. Her nearest relatives were the great-grandchildren of her grandparents.

Mrs. MACKAY's new Worth dress is to be ornamented by two or three hundred dozens of red-breasts, and the tips of her shoes are to be finished with tiny robins. This may do in Paris, but Mr. Mackay, serious danger of being interfered with by Henry Bergh on behalf of the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

PRINCESS MARIE, widow of Prince Henry of the Netherlands, it is said, feels that she has been slighted by the Dutch court, and will return immediately to Berlin. She will make Berlin her permanent residence. She is the daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, whose wife recently left him. She was the second wife of Prince Henry, to whom she was married in 1878, about four months before his death.

MISS MARIA EWING, of Flatbrookville, N. J. (not Flatbush, L. I.), recently completed with an admirable request for a rope with which to hang himself, when she declined to marry him. She afterward partially relented, and sent a man to cut him down. He swears he will try again and again until he succeeds, and Miss Ewing inquires about him daily. Unless she has another lover it will be reasonably safe to wager that she will eventually become the bride of this lunatic, with all that the surrender implies. The woman who hesitates is lost.

It is said of the lately deceased Admiral Carr Glyn, the heir of the late Adelaide Nelson, that the bright eyes of Miss Nelson fascinated him at a fashionable supper table. He fell deeply in love with her and proposed marriage. The Prince of Wales offered innumerable objections to the match. The sailor was so infuriated that he offered to brave the wrath of the Prince. Miss Nelson, so the story goes, was prevailed upon to decline to be his wife, but she remained his warm friend to the end of her days. She bequeathed him about £40,000. He leaves two sons and two daughters. He was a knight of the third-class of Medjidie.

Mrs. ARTHUR SCOTT DUNWAY, who has run the *New Northstar*, in Oregon, as editor and proprietor for 10 or 15 years, has brought up nine sons to assist her in the business. Her paper circulates largely in Washington Territory, and is devoted to equal rights as a principle, and through it Mrs. Dunway is in great measure credited as the means of securing suffrage of women in the Territory. As a token of their appreciation of her services she was heartily endorsed for Governor, by the leading authorities, as an honor, however, which she resolutely declined, on the score that she has set her heart on carrying the reform in Oregon, and would never desert her post until victory had been secured. The favorite fling of "sour old maid" can not be cast at her, as surrounded by her nine stalwart sons—work off the paper—she stands at the helm demanding equal rights, with all the forceful energy of a representative Western woman.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

ROSCOE CONKLING is said to be looking better, so far as health is concerned, than he has for years.

BOUCAULT says he intends spending the summer in writing a book on the players of his time, with a special view of showing how the commercial drama and speculative manager and artist have developed, and under what conditions.

MR. HARLEY, a musical gentleman, who was dismissed from a London comedy theater for singing out of tune, said the director, Mr. Alexander Henderson, for damages and recovered £250. It is Mr. Henderson who is out of tune now.

LOREL TENNISON, the son of the poet, has written a humorous poem, called "Matias Mutanda," for the *Chicago Current*. But probably it is nowhere near so funny as his father's contribution to American literature in the shape of a poem on "Spring."

JUDGE WM. Q. LAWRENCE, First Comptroller of the Treasury, is said to furnish Government printers with the most legible copy they get. Reverdy Johnson's handwriting was the worst, especially after he became partly blind and paralytic in his fingers.

EMERY A. STORRS is attending to two important cases at present—the American hog and John A. Logan's boom. The Illinois statesman should beware. The case before him is a slippery "case," and is likely to be the last moment, to throw the Senator in the interest of the pig.

LORD LYONS, English Minister in Paris, has never changed any of his servants—of whom he has eight

